

Iowa Community Empowerment Newsletter

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Announcing: CEA Coordinator Training Series

The Coordinator Training Work Group, Office of Empowerment, and the state technical assistance team are excited to announce the roll out of the Community Empowerment Area (CEA) Coordinator training. The training is a competency-based educational series to strengthen the knowledge, leadership skills, and best management practices in order to be an effective and efficient coordinator for local boards. The curriculum is based on a set of core competencies and developed by local CEA coordinators and state technical assistance staff.

The goals of the training are:

1. Provide a course of study through which local coordinators can increase knowledge, skills and confidence in their job responsibilities;
2. Provide local boards with trained coordinators to more effectively support board responsibilities and accountability for results;
3. Establish a network of local coordinators to provide peer-to-peer support.

There are four modules within the series. They are progressive in nature and begin with an Overview of Community Empowerment, including a fiscal year timeline and working with your local board; and move to working in and understanding Iowa's Early Childhood System, including the work of Early Childhood Iowa, local system development, quality practices, advocating with policy makers and developing yourself as a coordinator. Sandwiched between will be information on producing accountability through results and fiscal management, and planning for success utilizing your community plan and marketing strategies.

The trainers for the series will be a combination of local CEA coordinators, state technical assistance team members and outside topical experts. The training will include information, group discussions, and hands-on exercises with tools and forms developed for Community Empowerment.

Community Empowerment Area Coordinator Training Series One

Module 1: Thursday, March 13: Johnston Public Library
Module 2: Thursday, April 10: Urbandale Public Library
Module 3: Thursday, May 8: Altoona Public Library
Module 4: Thursday, June 12: Urbandale Public Library

Community Empowerment Area Coordinator Training Series Two

Module 1: Thursday, March 20: West Des Moines Learning Resource Center
Module 2: Thursday, April 17: Urbandale Public Library
Module 3: Thursday, May 15: Johnston Public Library
Module 4: Thursday, June 19: Urbandale Public Library

This training will be targeted to Community Empowerment Contacts & Coordinators. Each training series will be limited to 30 participants. To secure your spot, contact Debra Scrowther, debra.scrowther@iowa.gov, or for a training flier and registration form, check out the Community Empowerment home page at www.empowerment.state.ia.us.

Disclaimer:
Many articles in this newsletter are submitted by various entities. The views and opinions contained within may or may not be those of Iowa Community Empowerment.

Update December 2007 – January 2008

Links to Empowerment Web sites:

State Empowerment site:

www.empowerment.state.ia.us

Association for Iowa's Children:

www.iowaschildren.org

Local Empowerment web sites are also available on the state web site. Go to the Local Areas tab and click on Map.

Adair County

www.adairempowerment.org

Benton County

www.bcempowerment.com

Black Hawk

www.cedarvalleypromise.org

Buchanan Delaware Fayette

www.bdfempowerment.org

Cedar

www.empowercedarco.org

Cerro Gordo, Hancock, Worth

www.empowermentforthekids.org

Dallas

www.co.dallas.ia.us/Comm_Services/Empowerment.asp

Des Moines/Louisa

www.caringcommunityempowerment.org

Dubuque

www.empowerdubuque.org

Floyd, Chickasaw, Mitchell

www.fmempowerment.com

HAWC (Howard, Allamakee, Winneshiek, Clayton)

www.HAWC-Iowa.com

Hardin

www.empowerhardin.com/

Henry

www.healthymccurtaincounty.org

Humboldt, Hamilton, Wright

www.buildingfamilies.net

Jasper

<http://www.jaspercountyempowerment.org/>

Johnson

<http://www.jcempowerment.org>

Linn

www.linncountycommunityempowerment.org

Madison *NEW*

www.madisoncountyhelp.org

Marshall

www.youthandviolence.org

Muscatine

www.muscatineempowerment.org

PAK (Palo Alto, Kossuth)

www.pakempowerment.com

Pocahontas, Calhoun and Webster

www.linking-families.com

Polk

www.hsipa.org

Scott

www.scottcountyempowerment.org

Story

www.storycountyfamily.org

Warren

www.warrenempowerment.org

Washington

www.empowerwashington.org

Woodbury

www.siouxlandship.org

Early Care, Health and Education System Building Activities

- Iowans Fit for Life – December 3
- Head Start Directors – December 4
- Family Support Coordination meetings with HOPES – December 4
- ECI Quality Services & Programs Issue Brief Committee – Dec 5
- Parent Information Resource Center board meeting – December 5
- ECI – Child Care Issue Brief workgroup – December 5
- ECI – Professional Development Workgroup – December 6
- Fiscal Accountability Workgroup – Dec 6
- Professional Development component workgroup – December 6
- ECI Results Accountability workgroup – December 7
- Family Support Data Collection and Outcomes Workgroup - December 13
- QRS Oversight Committee – December 13
- Family Support Program Standards and Core Competencies Workgroup - December 14
- ECI – Results Accountability Workgroup – December 7
- Title V Strategic Plan workgroup – December 17
- NGA Conference Call – December 17
- Barriers to Pre-natal Care Meeting – December 18
- ECI Congress Planning – December 18 & January 10 & January 31
- ECI Governance & Admin Workgroup meeting – Dec 20
- ECI Co-Chairs – January 4
- Empowerment Administrative Rules Open Hearing – January 7
- ECI Resources & Funding component workgroup – January 8
- Board Orientation Training with SWCC, Osceola – January 8
- State Child Care Advisory Council – January 10
- Iowa Empowerment Board meeting – January 11
- 0-3 Best Practices Legislative Interim Committee – January 14
- Household Health Survey meeting – January 15
- QRS annual report meeting – January 15
- Voluntary 4-Year Old Preschool site visit, North Fayette & East Allamakee Schools – January 15 & 16
- AEA 15/16 Summer Symposium Follow-Up, Ottumwa – January 17
- Professional Development Planning – January 17
- Early ACCESS Council – January 18
- Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems grant conference call – Jan 23
- Iowa Business Council Annual Meeting – January 28
- Positive Behavior Supports meeting – January 30

Site Visits/Technical Assistance Activities

- Warren County, Family Support – December 3
- Poweshiek County, redesignation follow up meeting – December 6
- Adams County, Redesignation prep – December 10
- Winnebago County, redesignation follow up meeting – December 10
- Madison County, TA with board – December 11
- Cass Mills Montgomery, Conflict of Interest TA – December 11
- Clinton/Jackson, Budgeting TA – December 14
- Cerro Gordo Hancock Worth, board TA, Indicator Committee group, Empowerment 101 training – December 18 & January 4 & January 15
- Muscatine County – December 18
- Warren County – Parent Incentive Programs – December 18
- Warren County Annual Provider Reception – January 8
- Wayne County, Results-based Accountability training – January 14
- Mahaska Wapello, Empowerment 101 training – January 23

Upcoming Events Calendar at a Glance

Train the Trainer Maternal Depression Screening

March 6, 2008

Des Moines

lisa-segre@uiowa.edu

Early Childhood Iowa Stakeholders

February 7, 2008

Levitt Room, Botanical Center
Des Moines

Empowerment Coordinators/Contacts Meetings

February 13, 2008

Rising Sun Church of Christ
Pleasant Hill

Early Childhood Iowa Day on the Hill

February 14, 2008

State Capitol
Des Moines

www.earlychildhoodiowa.org

Prevent Child Abuse Iowa Conference

April 21-22, 2008

Sheraton Conference Center
West Des Moines

www.pcaiowa.org

- Ida County, TA to new coordinator, Redesignation follow up with board – January 28

Annual Report Reviews

- Clarke County – December 4
- Warren County – December 5
- Ringgold County – December 13
- Story County – January 2
- Bremer Butler Franklin Grundy – January 10
- Hardin County – January 15
- Union County – January 22
- Adair County – January 23
- Harrison Monona Shelby – January 28
- ADLM – January 29
- Black Hawk County – January 30

Linkages/Outreach Activities

- Governor's Workforce Summit – December 18



Earn a Parenting Education Certificate of Completion!

Partnering with Parents, offered by Iowa State University Extension, helps people gain in-depth knowledge and skill in effectively planning, delivering, and evaluating parenting education. People can participate in the full series (11 modules) and earn a Parenting Education Certificate of Completion, as well as undergraduate or graduate credit. Or people can pick and choose module topics that are of most interest to them. Individuals who have successfully completed the *Family Development Certification Training*, only need to complete 7 of the 11 modules in order to earn a Parenting Education Certificate of Completion. (Visit <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/pwp/ISUcoursecredits.html>).

Partnering with Parents is offered face to face in Iowa, as well as completely online. On January 8, 2008, the training series will start in Ames. Individuals can also participate in the full online version beginning January 14, 2008. <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/pwp/index.html>

*Scholarship funds to reimburse registration fees for *Partnering with Parents*, as well as other identified family support training programs, are available through funding allocated to the Office of Empowerment for professional development activities. See www.iowafadss.org for more information.

ECHE System Building Updates



2008 Day on the Hill Quality Counts!

Early Childhood Iowa Day on the Hill

Thursday, February 14, 2008

State Capitol and Wallace Building

Registration Deadline: February 4th

Don't forget to register for the 2008 Early Childhood Iowa Day, which will take place Thursday February 14th. A tentative agenda follows:

- 8:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. Capitol Registration, Set-up Exhibits, Meet with Legislators
- 9:00 - 9:30 a.m. Wallace Building Registration (For those who did not register at the Capitol)
- 9:30 -10:30 a.m. Keynote Speaker: Helen Blank (Wallace)
- 10:30 - 11:15 a.m. Advocacy 101 (Wallace)
- 11:15 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Meet with legislators/exhibits (State Capitol)

For more information on who your legislators are and how to contact them, go to www.legis.state.ia.us. If you would like to attend, please register no later than February 4th to ensure materials will be available for all participants. Registration materials for the event can be accessed at <http://www.state.ia.us/earlychildhood/advocacy/index.html>.

For questions about Day on the Hill please contact Jenny Hodges, jhodges@idph.state.ia.us or Kelly Schulte, kschulte@idph.state.ia.us.



It Out!

Early Childhood Iowa Parent Web site:

In 2005, the Iowa Empowerment Board was directed by the Legislature to provide for the operation of an internet webpage for purposes of widely distributing early care, health, and education information. This information was to be provided by the departments represented on the board and the public and private agencies addressing the Early Care, Health, and Education System. Focus groups made up of providers, families, and consumers were conducted in the fall of 2005. The State Empowerment Technical Assistance Team used the input and feedback from the focus groups to develop the Early Childhood (EC) Parent Web site.

The EC Parent Web site was launched on March 15, 2006. This Web site serves as a hub for early childhood information and services. The goal of the site is to provide accurate information by linking to other credible Web sites and resources that currently exist.

One of the most valuable features of the Web site is an evaluation component for visitors to provide input about the content of the site. The site is continuously updated and improved based on the feedback that is received through the evaluations. To date, over 50 evaluations have been completed and it is anticipated that many more will be received.

The EC Parent Web site is currently in the process of being redesigned to have a fresh new look. The redesign is expected to be launched in February 2008.

www.parents.earlychildhoodiowa.org

Iowa Empowerment Board News January Meeting Highlights



The Iowa Empowerment Board (IEB) kicked off 2008 with their board meeting on January 11 that included an aggressive agenda and important decisions. The meeting began with the welcome and introductions of the 69 board members, guests and staff that were present. The agenda and the minutes were reviewed and approved. Shanell Wagler provided an early childhood administrative update, which included information and updates, as well as the following action items: the updated bylaws were approved and adopted; the IEB meeting and site visit locations were approved for 2008; the board approved the Notice of Intended Action to file administrative rules for the public private partnerships.

The Fiscal Accountability Workgroup (FAWG), a committee of the IEB, presented recommendations to the Board for their approval. Four Community Empowerment area (CEA) boards requested an exception to the Iowa Empowerment Board's carry forward policy. Based on the recommendation of FAWG, these requests were denied. The board also approved the Policy for Professional Development Carry Forward Funds put forth by the workgroup, as well as the Expenditure and Reporting Policy. These policies can be found on the Empowerment Web site at the following link, <http://www.empowerment.state.ia.us/studies.asp>.

The majority of the meeting consisted of the review and adoption of the designation recommendations for the 21 CEA boards that went through the redesignation process in the fall of 2007. Sixteen community empowerment areas received a full, unconditional 3-year designation. Five received a conditional one-year designation, with an opportunity to receive intensive technical assistance over the next year. At the beginning of next year, their progress will be re-evaluated by the Iowa Empowerment Board.

Finally, reviews and recommendations were considered for the three boards that received a conditional one-year designation the previous year. The Board determined that the progress and improvements these local boards were able to make over the past year warranted an unconditional designation for the remainder of the three year designation cycle for each of them.

The next meeting of the Iowa Empowerment Board will be March 14, 2008 at the Iowa Workforce Center, 430 East Grand in Des Moines.

Nominations Sought For Iowa Empowerment Board



The Iowa Empowerment Board consists of sixteen citizen members, six state agency directors, and six members of the general assembly. The state Empowerment Board currently is seeking candidates for citizen members. Citizen members are appointed by Governor Chester J. Culver and confirmed by the Iowa Senate. Interested candidates must complete a gubernatorial appointment resume in addition to seeking a letter of recommendation from their local empowerment board. The gubernatorial appointment resume can be found at

<http://www.governor.iowa.gov/administration/boards/>

Citizen member selections are reflective of the state's congressional districts to ensure representation from across the state. An equally important criterion is that appointments reflect the ethnic, cultural, social, and economic diversity of our state. We encourage candidates from diverse populations to apply.

You can also find the job responsibilities of an Iowa Empowerment Board member on our web site at the following link,

http://www.empowerment.state.ia.us/Common/pdf/ieb_responsibilities.pdf/

Please contact the Office of Empowerment if you need more information.



Submitted by Kelly Ann Schulte
Community Health Consultant
Iowa Department of Public Health,
Bureau of Family Health

Early ACCESS Announces a Change in Central Point of Contact and Central Directory

Early ACCESS is excited to announce that **Visiting Nurse Services (VNS) of Polk County** will assume responsibility as the central point of contact and directory for Early ACCESS (formally operated by Iowa COMPASS). The project has been named Early ACCESS Iowa and will be in operation starting **February 1, 2008**. The purpose of Early ACCESS Iowa is to assist families in connecting with Early ACCESS and community-based services that address specialized child and family needs through a user friendly system that includes a

- website
- toll-free telephone service
- single point of contact to provide facilitation of resources and referrals.

Please feel free to contact Annie Wood, Project Director, at 515-558-9951 with any questions.

Starting February 1st, 2008 Contact Early ACCESS Iowa at:

Toll-Free Number

1-888-IAKIDS1

1-888-4254371

Web site

www.EarlyACCESSIowa.org

The Early ACCESS system would like to thank **Iowa COMPASS** for their many years of service in this capacity. They connected many Iowa families to early intervention and disability services. We appreciate their dedication to serving children and families in Iowa who have disabilities.

For more information visit their web site, www.iowaschildren.org.



Week of the Young Child 2008

Week of the Young Child is April 13-19, 2008! Tools and information for Week of the Young Child will help you plan exciting events to celebrate children and raise awareness of their needs. Check out these resources and start planning ways to *bring your community together for children!*

<http://www.naeyc.org/about/woyc>

Early Childhood Public-Private Partnerships

Beth Jones, Early Childhood
Business Community Liaison

First Years First *Making Early Childhood Our Business*

The early childhood public-private partnership and the early childhood business committee have selected a name for the partnership, First Years First: *Making early childhood our business*. The name will be used to market the partnership statewide through development of a logo and marketing materials. The name, logo and branding will assist First Years First in meeting the goals of the partnership, which include:

- Developing the infrastructure needed to support the partnership, a system for the granting process, and further defining the focus of the investment fund.
- Fostering state level partnerships and putting together training to provide resources and information to local areas in building local public-private partnerships.
- Coordinating with Early Childhood Iowa to tie work of public private partnership back to Iowa's early childhood system.

Bi-monthly Tip on Engaging Business Leaders:

The Basics

The primary goal of business is to generate profits. Increasingly, corporate executives and business owners are identifying ways in which their philanthropic contributions can help them meet financial goals. Businesses have acted as good citizens by contributing to charities in communities in which their employees live or to organizations serving populations that overlap with their customer base. Increasingly, they are spending their philanthropic monies, as well as additional funds from their operating budgets, on endeavors that benefit the community as a whole.

There are three major avenues into corporate giving:

Core Business Interests: The most sizeable corporate contributions often are driven by the company's core business interests and are paid out of operating budgets rather than with philanthropic dollars. Accessing these funds requires extensive networking.

Corporate Giving Programs: Many companies have established a grant making program. These programs do not have an endowment; grants are part of the company's annual budget and are not subject to the same reporting standards as a corporate foundation. The grants given through these programs are typically aligned with corporate interests, addressing the issues that affect their customers and employees. Many programs have established guidelines and have a designated "giving officer" who can answer specific questions regarding your request.

Corporate (company-sponsored) Foundations: Some companies create foundations that they either endow or give annual gifts. While the company-sponsored foundation may maintain close ties with the donor company, it is a legally separate organization subject to the same rules and regulations as other private foundations.

Watch for the next bi-monthly tip on Knowing Your Audience and Targeting Prospects in the April newsletter.



Submitted by Kristi Judkins,
 Business Service Representative
 Iowa Workforce Development

Notice: This information is designed for general educational purposes only and is not intended, nor should it be construed as or relied upon, as legal advice. Please consult your legal counsel or other employment advisor for specific legal advice.

Workforce Tip: Flex Options in the Workplace

Flex-Options is a national workplace flexibility project developed by the U.S. Department of Labor, Women’s Bureau. Business owners and managers realize that sustaining a flexible workplace is critical to business success. Business leaders in these companies have learned to position flexibility as a powerful management tool used to accomplish work more efficiently, while caring about the needs of employees and bringing strategic value to the organization.

Flexibility helps employees manage a wide range of personal responsibilities throughout their life. As employees everywhere strive to juggle all of their commitments, requesting flexible work arrangements (e.g., flextime, compressed workweek, part-time, job sharing, and telecommuting, etc.), informal ad hoc flexible options, and flexibility have hit prime time.

Flexible work arrangements have been directly related to:

- Enhanced ability to attract and retain talented people.
- Greater employee satisfaction, morale, and engagement.
- Increased effectiveness and productivity.
- Better coverage of the operation and availability to customers.

Studies show that employees who have access to flexible work arrangements are more:

- Satisfied with their jobs.
- Committed and loyal to their employers.
- Willing to work hard to help their employers succeed.
- Likely to stay with their employers.

Getting Started

But, how do you go about implementing workplace flexibility? Where do you go to learn about creating a flexible workplace culture, or developing policies and procedures?

The Department of Labor, Women's Bureau, through the Flex-Options project has contracted with providers in six regions of the U.S. **In Iowa there is no cost to employers to participate in the Flex-Option Program.** For more information contact Craig Immerfall at 515-242-5985.

GROWING STRONG AND HEALTHY



The Iowa Medical Society Alliance, in conjunction with the Iowa Medical Society and the American Medical Association Alliance, has designed a poster for parents of children birth to 5 years old with information on healthy nutrition and physical activity choices. These posters can be downloaded at the IMSA website www.ims-alliance.org, and distributed to parents, day care centers, preschools, physicians' offices, etc. This collaboration is an effort to help combat the growing trends of obesity in young children. For more information, please contact Darshini Jayawardena at ddea3@hotmail.com

**We would like to thank Iowa Empowerment Board member Darshini Jayawardena for submitting the successful grant for this project. Thank you for your commitment to young children and families, Darshini!*

Iowa
AEYC/T.E.A.C.H.
Early Childhood®
IOWA

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Accreditation and Professionalism

Many of the quality improvement efforts in our state are designed to help child care providers and programs meet minimum standards and improve health and safety at the most basic level for young children. This is vital to provide safe care of thousands of Iowa’s youngest. But what is happening to encourage “best practices”? What is our role in promoting “excellent care”?

NAEYC Accreditation, as well as other forms of accreditation and standards such as Head Start performance standards, encourages providers of child care and early education to seek to move their program to the highest level of best practice possible. While not easy to attain, NAEYC accreditation is a goal worthy of seeking, and hundreds of Iowa programs have either achieved this standard, or are in the process of exploring the possibilities. The Iowa Association for the Education of Young Children supports the professionals *in* our field, and professionalism *for* our field. By sponsoring one of the NAEYC Accreditation Facilitation Projects in the state, Iowa AEYC works to assist those on the local level explore and attain accreditation for their programs. Looking for more information on accreditation, or want to join a facilitation group in your area? We invite you to contact us for information. Packets are available (contact us at info@iowaaeyc.org) specifically addressing the different needs of communities and community partners, programs exploring accreditation, and parents and the general public who may wish more information. Thanks to support from Iowa Community Empowerment, professional development state-wide funding, we would be pleased to send you the appropriate packet, at no charge. Call for an appropriate packet, (800) 469-2392.

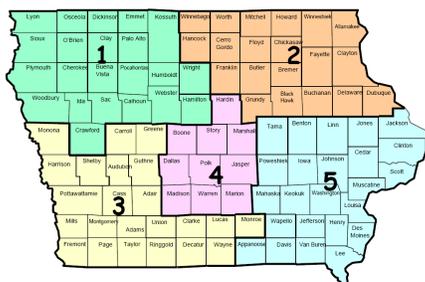
The *NAEYC Code of Ethics* has offered guidelines for responsible behavior in our field, and sets forth a common basis for resolving the principle ethical dilemmas encountered in early childhood care and education. We are pleased to support continued discussion of the Code by sponsoring a spring Leadership Training Event, all day Saturday, April 5, in the Des Moines area. We welcome Gwen Simmons and Peter Pizzolongo from NAEYC to lead professionals in Iowa through conversations on how to implement the Code in our daily work, use it in training, and refer to it as a basis for all decision making. The National Child Care Association has approved this program as meeting the criteria for continuing education for the NAC (National Administrator Credential). Go to our website for more information and a registration form, www.iowaaeyc.org.

T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood® IOWA is a compensation and retention program for those who work in child care or preschool in Iowa. College degrees are not required in Iowa for many roles in our field, but we know that higher quality care is provided, and professionalism is enhanced, by those who have earned a college degree or credential in early childhood education. Through college scholarships for credentials and degrees in early childhood education supported by T.E.A.C.H., the quality of child care is improving in over two hundred child care programs around the state, and providers are staying in their current programs longer and being paid more!

Be the best you can be.....it’s what our children deserve.

Iowa Child Care Resource & Referral

Submitted by, Cathy Wheatcraft
Director, Region 4



<http://www.iowaccrr.org/>

Iowa's State Partnered Child Care Resource & Referral Network

After the dissolution of the Iowa Child Care and Early Education Network in April 2006, the five Iowa Child Care Resource & Referral Regional Directors and DHS Program Managers, Julie Ingersoll and Jody Caswell met with Linda Smith, Executive Director of the National Association of Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies (NACCRRRA) and Jan Terhune, Director of CCR&R Services to strategically plan how to continue the work of the Network in coordinating CCR&R services statewide.

According to NACCRRRA there are 850 CCR&Rs in every state and most communities in the nation. Thirty-eight States have State CCR&R Networks. State Networks and their local CCR&R partners help families, child care providers, and communities find and offer affordable, quality child care.

State CCR&R Networks ensure quality, accountable CCR&R services through state wide coordination, monitoring and evaluation. State CCR&R Networks provide local CCR&RS training and technical assistance in best practices and standards, collect statewide child care data to report on supply, demand, cost and quality and coordinate child care quality initiatives. When partnering with NACCRRRA to determine how to best support the families of active military personnel living off base, the Department of Defense concluded that the states with the highest quality child care also had the strongest CCR&R Networks.

Although each state is unique, NACCRRRA identifies three general types of Networks: *Coordinating, Managing and Voluntary*. *Coordinating and Managing Networks* are funded and have staff. They receive public funds, such as Child Care Development Fund quality targeted funds, and also leverage funds from corporations, foundations, membership dues, fee-for service contracts and state grants. In addition, Managing Networks also manage and distribute CCR&R funding on behalf of the state through contracts with local CCR&Rs for service delivery. *Voluntary Networks* generally receive no state funding to support their work and depend on local CCR&R directors and staff to volunteer time to coordinate and lead the state's CCR&R system, making it difficult to provide the same level of service as funded State Networks.

Iowa is taking steps to implement a new type of network, one of only three in the country, that of a "state-partnered" Network. Under this structure, DHS is employing staff to support the work of the CCR&R agencies and providing leadership to ensure system coordination – among the CCR&R area offices and with other state initiatives.

.In the past 18 months, in partnership with DHS, Iowa CCR&R:

- Developed statewide ChildNet certification policies
- Updated the Childnet training curriculum
- Over 80 new and current ChildNet Trainers completed a two day train the trainer.
- Expanded the Program for Infant Toddler Care (PITC) to include on site consultation through the addition of new Infant Toddler Specialists and PITC trainers.
- Reinstated the Iowa CCR&R Roundhouse, a two day professional development conference for CCR&R staff
- Conducted nationally recognized consultation training for staff
- Secured Empowerment funding to support the development of a 32 hour "Beyond Business Basics" curriculum, the training of trainers, and the local delivery of training
- Ensured each Regional Director serves as a liaison for one or more Iowa CCR&R workgroups, as well as established a state point of contact for each of the Iowa CCR&R staff teams.

Staff to Support the CCR&R “State-Partnered” Network:

Regional Workgroup	Iowa CCR&R Regional Director	State Contact/Coordinator
Quality Rating System Specialists	Jackie Mulder, Region 1	Jody Caswell, DHS
Child Care Nurse Consultants	MariLynn Pierce, Region 2	Sally Clausen, IDPH
Infant Toddler Specialists	Cathy Wheatcraft, Region 4	Dawn Collins, DHS
Child Care Home Consultants	Cathy Wheatcraft, Region 4	Dawn Collins, DHS
Parent Services	Patti Christensen, Region 5	Julie Ingersoll, DHS
Training Coordinators	MariLynn Pierce, Region 2	Dawn Collins, DHS
Data Committee	Glenna Thompsen, Region 3	Tammi Christ, DHS



Strengthening the Iowa CCR&R/DHS partnership, Dawn Collins was hired at DHS in September 2007 as the Iowa CCR&R Professional Development Program Manager. This is a new position in the child care unit of the Division of Child & Family Services for Iowa Department of Human Services. Dawn will be working closely with Iowa CCR&R in coordinating professional development efforts. Dawn will also work closely with the Iowa CCR&R Regional Training Coordinators, Infant Toddler Specialists, and Home Consultants, coordinating and standardizing service delivery. She will also be the DHS lead for implementation activities related to Iowa’s Early Learning Standards.

Dawn has a BA in sociology and psychology and a MS in sociology. She brings an understanding of non-profit system building after eight years experience as the Executive Director for Crisis Intervention Services, a domestic and sexual assault advocacy program that serves four counties in southeast Iowa. Other experiences include serving as an adjunct instructor at William Penn University, service in the U.S Army, and personal and professional involvement in the arena of developmental disabilities.

Dawn has already visited many of the CCR&Rs around the state, orienting herself to the Iowa CCR&R system. She has facilitated at least one quarterly meeting with the Regional Training Coordinators, Infant Toddler Specialists and Home Consultants and is in regular communication with each group. Dawn is an excellent addition to Iowa CCR&R/DHS team.

Dawn Collins, Iowa CCR&R Professional Development Program Manager, DHS



Sheila Hansen,
shansen@cfpciowa.org;
Tiffany Smith, LMSW,
tiffany@cfpciowa.org

Presidential Candidate Website

www.itsaboutourkids.org



Every Child Counts 2008 Legislative Priorities

Quality Early Learning and School Readiness Investments

Early Care and Education

- Phase in an increase of the child care assistance eligibility level to get to 200% of poverty by 2012
- Update child care subsidy reimbursement rates to providers based on the more current market survey and phase in a tiered reimbursement system
- Provide nurse consultation services statewide
- Provide professional development and training with a particular emphasis upon building a culturally diverse and professional workforce
- Require all home child care providers to complete pre-registration visits annually.
- Conduct annual monitoring and complete all needed follow-up of child care homes.

High Quality Preschool

- Monitor implementation of voluntary statewide preschool program for four year olds and make modifications as needed to ensure the needs of low-income and minority children and their families, in particular, are met

Family Support

- Expand the use of research-based family support services within Community Empowerment
- Develop incentives that support family, friend, and neighbor caregivers in providing developmental activities and environments for the children in their care

Child Well-Being and Development

Child Health Care Coverage

- Expand child health care coverage and requirements to achieve universal child health coverage by 2010
- Expand coverage for parents on Medicaid

Healthy Child Development

- Continue to expand First Five to additional communities
- Expand research-based preventive and developmental health service models within pediatric care
- Ensure dental, vision, and nutrition services are part of primary health services and meet children's needs

Child and Family Economic Success

Income Tax Treatment of Families with Children

- Increase the earned income tax credit and improve tax treatment of families with children by closing tax loopholes

Protections Against Predatory Lending

- Lower interest rate ceilings and provide protections against loan "roll-overs" in the pay day lending market
- Address predatory sub-prime mortgage lending practices involving "bait and switch" and other deceptive practices
- Curb abusive foreclosure avoidance financing schemes
- Provide consumers with access to consumer fraud protections, including the right to sue

Micro-enterprise Development

- Create a micro-enterprise network strategy as part of Iowa's economic development plan, based upon the DED environmental scan and summit



Prevent Child Abuse Iowa

Next: Part 4, Policies and Communities

Conference Registration On-line!

On-line Registration is available for PCA Iowa's 27th annual child abuse prevention conference to be held April 21-22, 2008.

Register at www.regonline.com/pca/iowa.

More conference information is available at www.pcaiowa.org/conference.html.

Talking to Older Children

Even if your children are older now, it is never too late to start talking to them. Here are some ways to start the conversation:

- "I'd like to talk with you about something very important..."
- "I saw something on the news today that I want to talk to you about..."
- "I read about a child in the paper that..."
- "Has anyone ever touched you in a way that made you feel uncomfortable?"
- "What do you know about sexual abuse?"

Preventing Child Sexual Abuse Part 3: What Adults Can Do To Keep Kids Safe

Written by Amber Russell and Christy Thies, Prevent Child Abuse Iowa

Adults can help keep children safe from sexual abuse by understanding what normal healthy sexual development looks like, responding sensitively to children's sexual behaviors, and acting on teachable moments to talk to children about sexuality (*see Parts 1 and 2 of this series*). This will give children knowledge about sexuality and help children feel safe and comfortable talking to an adult if they have concerns. Beyond teaching about sexuality and responding to children's questions, adults should be prepared to initiate the conversation with children about sexual abuse and body safety.

Private Parts and Body Safety

We teach our children how to share, that hitting hurts, not to touch a hot stove, to look both ways before crossing the street, and many other safety tips. To this natural progression of safety tips we can add knowledge about private parts and body safety. Adults can best explain "private parts" to young children by saying they are the special parts of our bodies that are covered up by a swim suit. Children should know the correct clinical names of their private parts: vagina, penis, breasts, and buttocks (or bottom). Comfortably using these words and teaching them to our children will help dispel the sexual taboos that prevent us from talking about sexual abuse at all. They will also arm children with the knowledge they might need to describe clearly an abusive situation.

Adults should teach children touching rules, for instance, that no one has the right to touch their private parts. A parent or doctor may need to touch a child's private parts to keep them healthy and/or clean. However, as children grow up they don't need help with their private parts. They can learn to use the bathroom and bathe by themselves. Children should also be taught that an adult never needs a child to help the adult with his/her private parts.

Good Touch, Bad Touch, Confusing Touch

As a part of body safety rules, adults should teach children about different kinds of touching. A good touch is one that makes us feel good, like a hug or a handshake. All children need to be touched, and these good touches nurture children and build their confidence. Bad touches are those that hurt or that violate a touching rule, for example: hitting, kicking, biting, pulling another child's pants down, etc. Children should tell an adult if they receive a bad touch. Confusing touches are those that might make a child feel "mixed-up" inside. Maybe the touch feels good, but it violates a touching rule. Maybe the touch doesn't feel good but the person tells the child it is a secret (*see below*). Children should always tell an adult if they are confused about a touch or if someone breaks a touching rule.

Secrets

Sex offenders use threats, force, shame and other tactics to ensure that children will keep the sexual abuse a secret. Parents and caregivers should teach children that touching is never a secret. Children should be encouraged to tell a trusted adult if someone tries to give them a secret touch. When we *encourage* children to tell and let them know they *can* tell if something happens, we avoid further shaming children who are being abused and don't immediately tell. Remember, the burden of telling can be enormous for a child.

In the next issue we will explore Policies and Communities.

Healthy Child Care Iowa (HCCI)



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Applications for HCCI Child Care Nurse Consultants Now Being Accepted

Healthy Child Care Iowa (HCCI) is taking applications from registered nurses wanting to become **Child Care Nurse Consultants**. The application process requires RNs to use the HCCI website and complete an online survey. <http://www.idph.state.ia.us/hcci>. Users should scroll down the webpage and select **Iowa Training Project for Child Care Nurse Consultant, apply**. The survey takes less than 5 minutes to complete. Applicants will need their RN license number for the survey.

All applicants will be informed by email of their acceptance. A copy of the spring 2008 training brochure with tentative agenda is attached. Please share this with all your partners in MCH, Head Start, and Community Empowerment. Questions may be referred to Sally Clausen, sclausen@idph.state.ia.us.



U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission

The number of children's items being recalled has set new national records creating public alarm. Consumer awareness of child safety is heightened like never before. The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission and the US Food and Drug Administration are charged with protecting US residents from harmful/dangerous products.

The **Consumer Product Safety Commission** lists recalled and hazard announcement on their web site: <http://www.cpsc.gov> To receive up-to-date announcements of hazards and recalls, subscribe to the CPSC electronic announcements:

[Sign Up for Email Announcements \(Español\)](#)

Get free recall and safety news by email as part of CPSC's "Drive for 1 Million" campaign.

The **Food and Drug Administration** lists food and medication recalls and hazards on their web site: <http://www.fda.gov/opacom/7alerts.html>.

Healthy Child Care Iowa maintains a list of the product recalls and hazard warning pertaining to children. The product covers the last six months. To view recalled product information, first select a product category from the following list.

- [Beds, Cribs, and Bedding](#) No new recalls
- [Child Clothing, Shoes, and Accessories](#) **2** new recalls
- [Equipment \(including infant supplies/equipment\)](#) **5** new recalls
- [Food, Drug, Medicine hazards and recalls](#) **3** new recalls specific to children
- [Furniture Related to Child Care and Early Education](#) no new recalls
- [Toys and Play Related Items](#) **29** new recalls



A message from The National Program for Playground Safety (NPPS):

Winter is here! Please remember that children still need time to explore the outdoors. As childcare professionals, it is important to be aware that Winter weather means special conditions exist on the playground.

NPPS recommends that the playground equipment is off limits if the equipment is wet. Wet conditions exist because of:

- Fog - It makes the equipment wet and it will be slippery
- Rain - It makes the equipment wet and children will lose their grip and fall
- Ice - It makes the equipment slippery, thus resulting in falling.
- Snow - Surfacing under and around equipment that has snow placed on top of it has not been tested for impact attenuation. Surfacing is important because it protects children from falling.

Children should be allowed to play on the equipment once the snow is removed and the equipment is dry.

For more information, contact NPPS at www.playgroundsafety.org or call 800-554-PLAY!

CHILD CARE ONLINE COURSES AVAILABLE

The National Program for Playground Safety (NPPS) at the University of Northern Iowa is the leader in research, training, and development of S.A.F.E. play areas!
<http://www.playgroundsafety.org/safe/index.htm>

NPPS' mission is to help the public create safe and developmentally appropriate play environments for children. NPPS offers online training for child care businesses and elementary schools. NPPS website: www.playgroundsafety.org

Playground Supervision for Child Care Providers

Next course February 2008 (Cost \$15.00 + \$10.00 additional fee for CEU credit)
http://www.playgroundsafety.org/training/online/childcare/course_supervision.htm

Early Childhood Outdoor Play Inspectors Program (Certification Course)

Next course March 2008 (Cost \$495 covers: Course Tuition, Certification, CEUs, National Registry List, pass course, and Course Materials)

http://www.playgroundsafety.org/training/online/childcare/course_outdoorInspectors.htm

<http://www.playgroundsafety.org/training/certified/outdoorInspectors/index.htm>



Covering Kids & Families has finalized the following outreach materials:

- *Issue Brief # 13 - Medicaid Continuous Eligibility: An Update*
Describes how Iowa could allow children to maintain coverage for up to one full year, even if families experience a change in income or status.
- *Issue Brief # 14 – Express Lane Eligibility in Iowa*
Describes processes to easily identify and enroll eligible uninsured, low-income children into subsidized health insurance programs.
- *Issue Brief 15 - Lawfully Residing Immigrant Children and Health Care Coverage*
Explains in detail, the Immigrant Children’s Health Improvement Act (ICHIA) and how it could benefit Iowa.
- *How to Apply* brochure
Explains to families how they can apply for Medicaid and where to find a Medicaid application in their local area. Available in Spanish
- *Using Your Medicaid* brochure
Summarizes the Medicaid program details and assists families in navigating through the system. Available in Spanish
- *Covering Kids and Families December 2007 Electronic Newsletter*
Highlights of this edition include:
 - CKF Chosen to Participate in Retention Initiative
 - Back-to-School Follow-up 2007
 - Issue Briefs # 13-15
 - Child & Family Policy Center Awarded Grant from the Packard Foundation
 - Cold Air & Your Asthma
 - SCHIP Reauthorization Update
 - Spotlight on Local Outreach
 - CKF Outreach Materials
 - CKF Updates

CKF is in the process of finalizing their 2008 Winter Report, which will propose legislative recommendations. The issue briefs, as well as the winter report will be distributed to legislators throughout the months of session.

All of these materials can be found in the Marketing Guide on the Covering Kids and Families Web site at the following link:

http://www.idph.state.ia.us/coveringkids/marketing_guide.asp.

Iowa's Early Childhood Vision: Every child, beginning at birth, will be healthy and successful.